

ARKANSAS MILK PRODUCTION REPORT



ARKANSAS
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE (NASS)
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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This report contains the results of the quarterly Milk Production Survey conducted during the first part of January 2005. A sample of Arkansas milk producers was contacted and the data as of January 1 (for the October 1 through December 31 period) were obtained for the latest milk cow and milk production estimates. The annual data were compiled from the Milk Production Survey in January, April, July and October during the year. The data are also posted on our web site at the Internet address above, and more detailed national report at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>. Thanks to all who responded to the questionnaire and interview for the survey.

FOURTH QUARTER MILK PRODUCTION DOWN 9 PERCENT

ARKANSAS milk production during October-December 2004 quarter, was 73 million pounds, down 9 percent from the same period in 2003, but 1 percent below the previous July-September 2004 quarter.

The average number of milk cows on farms during the quarter was 23,000 head, 4,000 head less than the same period last year, and down 1,000 head from the previous quarter.

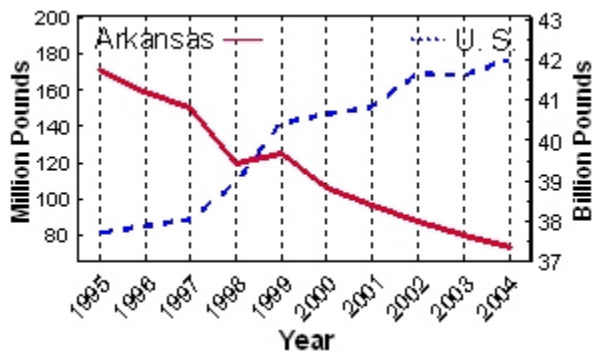
MILK COWS AND PRODUCTION BY QUARTER AND ANNUAL, ARKANSAS AND U. S., 2003-2004

Item/Period	ARKANSAS			UNITED STATES		
	2003	2004	% Chg.	2003	2004	% Chg.
	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Thousands</i>		<i>Percent</i>
MILK COWS ¹						
4 th Quarter, October - December	27	23	-15	9,011	9,019	0
3 rd Quarter, July - September	28	24	-14	9,070	9,027	0
2 nd Quarter, April - June	29	24	-17	9,107	9,001	-1
1 st Quarter, January - March	30	25	-17	9,142	8,993	-2
Annual Average Number	29	24	-17	9,083	9,010	-1
	<i>Million Pounds</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Million Pounds</i>		<i>Percent</i>
MILK PRODUCTION ²						
4 th Quarter, October - December	80	73	-9	41,550	41,983	+ 1
3 rd Quarter, July - September	81	74	-9	41,761	42,239	+ 1
2 nd Quarter, April - June	97	85	-12	43,996	43,824	0
1 st Quarter, January - March	96	86	-10	43,087	42,759	-1
Annual Total Production	354	318	-10	170,394	170,805	0
	<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>Pounds</i>		<i>Percent</i>
Annual Milk Production per Cow	12,207	13,250	+ 9	18,760	18,957	+ 1
NUMBER OF MILK COW OPERATIONS	450	400	-11	86,360	81,440	-6
Licensed Dairy Herds ³	290	250	-14	70,375	66,830	-5

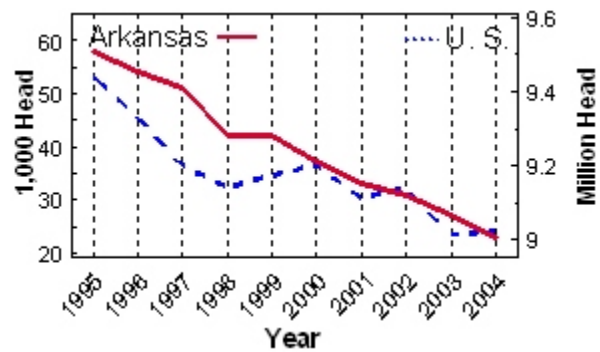
¹ Average number for the period includes dry cows, excludes heifers not yet fresh. ² Excludes milk nursed by calves.

³ Average number of dairy farms licensed to sell milk, based on counts collected from State and other regulatory agencies.

**Milk Production, October-December Quarter
Arkansas and U.S., 1995-2004**



**Milk Cows, October-December Quarter
Arkansas and U.S., 1995-2004**

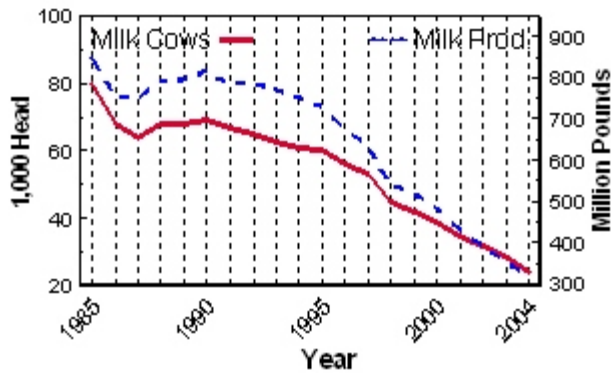


2004 ANNUAL RATE OF MILK PRODUCTION PER COW UP 9 PERCENT

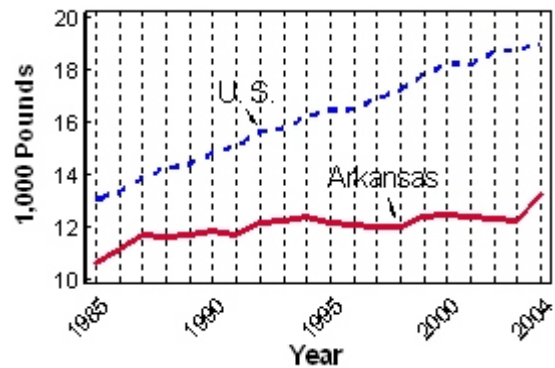
The annual milk production in Arkansas during 2004 was 318 million pounds, down 10 percent from 2003. **Production per cow** averaged 13,250 pounds for 2004, up 9 percent, or 1,043 pound more than 2003.

The average number of milk cows on farms during 2004 was 24,000 head, down 17 percent from the 29,000 head in 2003. The number of milk cows has declined 60 percent from ten years ago.

**Annual Milk Production and Milk Cows
Arkansas, 1985-2004**



**Annual Average Milk Production per Cow
Arkansas and U.S., 1985-2004**



**Number of Operations with Milk Cows
Arkansas and U. S., 1985-2004**

